

April 2023



CMS Connection

Illinois Department of Central Management Services' Monthly Newsletter



Acting Director Raven A. DeVaughn

ACTING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox, American writer

As the days get longer, and weather gets warmer, a true spring is on the horizon. This season naturally makes us think about new beginnings, starting fresh, and putting plans in motion. But while reaping the rewards of our hard work is a cause for celebration, we must also focus on sowing the seeds that will provide those future rewards. If we want to realize the gains of hard work, we need to first work to create that success.

Our team has consistently met that challenge. In the past year, CMS has implemented process improvements designed to increase efficiency and transparency, and worked with numerous stakeholders on solutions for unique challenges. We want to make sure that the CMS team is empowered to implement industrious and innovative solutions so we can effectively support State agencies that are providing critical public services. We applaud all of our CMS Team members, who are taking the opportunities to show initiative and increase ability to service more of our partner agencies, and by extension, residents. This month, we are recognizing Nicole Featherstone from the Bureau of Benefits as CMS Employee of the Month and Glen Minks from the Bureau of Internal Audit for advancing his skills and passing the Certified Internal Auditor exam.

There are also many programs throughout the agency, that are also demonstrating a commitment to increasing our impact. To highlight a few for this month:

- **2023 Surplus Summit**, an inaugural virtual conference, cosponsored by Senator Tammy Duckworth on April 20, 2023, is designed to inform and engage Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) about the availability of Federal Surplus property that is available for free or low cost. Thousands of items valued at over \$15 million have been acquired by VOSBs, helping grow their businesses and foster economic development in their communities.
- **56th Annual Chicago Business Opportunities Fair** is the largest events of its kind, hosted by the ChicagoMSDC, one of 23 affiliates of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) with the collective mission to certify, develop, connect and advocate for minority businesses.

The ongoing efforts of our entire team has been our key to success, and when we choose to lean into the power of our positive thoughts, there is so much we will accomplish, together.

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To learn more and keep up
with CMS, visit us online.



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2023

Nicole Featherston, Bureau of Benefits



CMS would like to congratulate Nicole Featherstone, Subrogation Unit Manager, for being recognized as the April 2023 Employee of the Month!

The CMS Risk Management Division is responsible for the oversight of Workers' Compensation and Auto Liability claims. Auto Liability claims are handled by CMS staff with support of agencies we provide coverage for. Worker's Compensation claims are handled by a third party claims administrator and managed by two CMS Worker's Compensation Managers.

Nicole is responsible for subrogation efforts within the Workers' Compensation program. She handles the pursuit and recovery of benefits paid for injured employees where a third party is negligent and responsible for the benefits paid when a State of Illinois employee is working and injured.

Nicole also assisted in the evaluation and selection of our new third party claims administrator via the procurement process. She has contributed in the transition process and her insight is valued as we enter a new era in workers' compensation claims handling.

Her disciplined approach to our operations has allowed the transition to flow as smooth as possible and contributed to \$3.3 million dollars in subrogation recoveries in calendar year 2022 and nearly \$1.9 million thus far in fiscal year 2023.

"Nicole is a team player with a positive mental attitude that makes it enjoyable for all of our risk management team to come to work and be productive," said Bureau of Benefits Deputy Director Kari Wolfe, "Her knowledge and experience is a true asset that is valued by the CMS Risk Management Division within the Bureau of Benefits."

Congratulations, Nicole!

Recognition



CMS Auditor Glen Minks passed all sections of his Certified Internal Auditor exam this year. This rigorous exam consists of 3 sections and is one of the three major exams that we look for in auditors at the state. Glen is the first person employed by our Bureau of Internal Audit to accomplish this achievement while employed by the Bureau. He is a shining example for our other auditors currently studying for this exam. **Kudos Glen!**



CMS Auditor Brittany Lennon passed the Certified Information Systems Auditor exam this year. This rigorous exam consists of 5 domains and is one of the three major exams that we look for in auditors at the state. Brittany is the first person employed by our Bureau of Internal Audit to accomplish this achievement while employed by the Bureau. She is one of about 10 auditors or less in the State to accomplish passing this exam. **Great job Brittany!**

SAFETY CORNER

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

By Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan, Director of Environmental Health and Safety

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 3,142 people were killed due to distracted driving in 2020!

Here is a helpful list of distractions put together by Infinity Insurance company using CDC literature as guidance:

- Visual
 - Texting.
 - Looking at directions or inputting GPS.
 - Trying to find something.
 - Adjusting the temperature or stereo volume.
 - Switching stations or tracks.
- Manual
 - Texting.
 - Eating or drinking.
 - Grooming.
 - Lighting a cigarette.
 - Adjusting a child's seatbelt.
 - Tending to a pet.
- Cognitive
 - Texting.
 - Speaking to a passenger in the car.
 - Getting lost in ideas, problems, projects.
 - Drowsiness.



Notice texting involves all three of these categories, therefore it is classified by many organizations as one of the most dangerous activities to do behind the wheel. Now the most obvious solution for this is simply not to text. If you cannot resist the temptation, try to put your phone in the glovebox or trunk.

The manual category is relatively straightforward. Just keep these distractions in mind and try to modify behaviors depending on the situation. It's a lot easier to drive eating some sour patch kids than a [bowl of cereal](#) requiring two hands!

The other distractions in the Visual category are not as straightforward. While the data is still not conclusive multiple studies suggest the touchscreen-based infotainment systems of many new vehicles may actually be creating more distractions and leading to increased accidents.

What else contributes to driving distractions? It could be your car itself!

- That's right, the appliance you call your vehicle could literally be contributing to your distracted driving behavior because of the sheer fact that it is boring! You don't have to drive a high-performance car to stay engaged and awake (though that helps). You know the old saying, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade!" You can improve your current ride and make it more engaging!

Is your stereo terrible and putting you to sleep?

- Upgrade the speakers. Unless you have the "Premium Sound" option manufacturers cut costs the worst on the audio system and they get away with it because the speakers are all hidden behind panels. Upgrading the factory speakers can transform your system and most importantly allow you to enjoy your ride again! You can find the speaker sizes for your car (google search) and get some replacement speakers for as low as \$50/pair with savvy shopping. Plus, if you're handy with tools this is a DIY job. Now you can finally crank up that [metal album](#) to 11 on your next commute!

Do you love driving twisty back roads, but your commuter is not up to the task?

- Get some quality sticky tires to improve the handling. The lower the [UTQG](#) number, the better grip you have (the faster you can take a corner). A grippy set of tires can also decrease stopping distances. A quality set of tires will most likely still be cheaper than a new car payment.

Still asleep at the wheel? Time to go racing!

- Enter a high-performance driving event like [Autocross](#). You literally can bring any car you want and explore its limits in a safe competitive environment. Have new teen drivers who have a need for speed? Enter them into an event like this. Not only will it teach them proper car control but also calm them down on the street. Plus, you become a much better driver that can react to unexpected situations with muscle memory rather than panic.

So there you have it. Don't text and drive, don't eat cereal behind the wheel, and upgrade your ride to fall in love with driving again! Happy motoring.



BENEFIT CORNER

FinWell Fireside Livestream: Goal Setting & Budgeting



Join this webinar to:

- Learn how to save for an emergency.
- Learn retirement planning.
- Learn how to plan for a child's education.
- Learn how to manage debt.
- Learn tips for buying a home.
- Learn investing.

Please visit [Be Well Webinars](#) to learn more!

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Advances in Autism Research

April is Autism Acceptance Month, so this month's Hally Healthcast covers autism spectrum disorder or ASD. Specifically, it will feature advances in scientific research focused on treatment, care and learning more about ASD. The featured guest is Biomedical Engineer Sheeba Arnold Anteraper, PhD., she's a Clinical Investigator at the Stephens Family Clinical Research Institute and an Assistant Professor at the Carle Illinois Advanced Imaging Center at [Carle](#) Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois. She's an expert in using MRI technology to research ASD and similar conditions.

[Click Here to Listen to Advances in Autism Research](#)

Brought to you by:



APRIL FEATURES

2023 Surplus Summit

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) is hosting the [2023 Surplus Summit](#), a virtual conference taking place on April 20, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This inaugural conference, cosponsored by Senator Tammy Duckworth, is designed to inform and engage Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs) about the availability of Federal Surplus property that is available for free or low cost.

The GSA Federal Surplus Property Program is administered by the Illinois State Agency for Surplus Property (ILSASP), a division of CMS, and governed by regulations of the [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#). The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act authorizes the donation of federal surplus property to qualified entities. This includes a wide range of items, such as: Vehicles, Tractors, Trailers, Boats, Heavy Equipment, ATV's, Shop Equipment, Drones, Field Kitchens, and 3D Printers. To date, nearly 60 different (VOSBs) from throughout all of Illinois have participated in the program and have acquired over 5,200 items valued at over \$15 million.

For more information, visit www.illinois.gov/fedsurplus



The poster features a stylized American flag in the top left corner. In the top right corner is a QR code. Centered below the flag is the CMS logo, which is a circular seal with 'STATE OF ILLINOIS' at the top, 'CMS' in the center, and 'CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES' at the bottom. Below the logo, the year '2023' is displayed in large blue numerals. Underneath '2023' is a red rectangle containing the word 'SURPLUS' in white, followed by a dark blue rectangle containing the word 'SUMMIT' in white. Below these rectangles, the text 'CO-SPONSORED BY U.S. SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH' is written in red. A horizontal line separates this from the date and time information. On the left, 'APRIL 20, 2023' is written in large black letters. On the right, 'VIRTUAL CONFERENCE' is written in black, with '9 AM - 12 PM' in red below it. Another horizontal line follows. Below this, the text 'ILLINOIS VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES' is in red, followed by 'YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY' in black. A final horizontal line is below this. At the bottom left, under 'LEARN HOW TO:', there is a list of three items: '★ GET CERTIFIED', '★ APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM', and '★ REQUEST AND RECEIVE FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY'. At the bottom right, under 'LEARN MORE AND REGISTER', is the website 'WWW.ILLINOIS.GOV/FEDSURPLUS' and a red button with the text 'REGISTER NOW' in white. A small American flag graphic is in the bottom right corner. At the very bottom left, in small print, it says 'Printed by the Authority of State of Illinois 04/23 IOC1 23-0910' followed by a small logo.

2023

SURPLUS SUMMIT

CO-SPONSORED BY U.S. SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH

APRIL 20, 2023 | **VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**
9 AM - 12 PM

ILLINOIS VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES
YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY

LEARN HOW TO:

- ★ GET CERTIFIED
- ★ APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM
- ★ REQUEST AND RECEIVE FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER
WWW.ILLINOIS.GOV/FEDSURPLUS

REGISTER NOW

Printed by the Authority of State of Illinois 04/23 IOC1 23-0910

APRIL FEATURES

56th Annual Chicago Business Opportunities Fair - April 18-19, 2023

Procurement can have a substantial impact on the success of small businesses, especially those owned by those from underrepresented communities. The Chicago Business Opportunity Fair is designed to help make quality connections with the collective mission to certify, develop, connect, and advocate for minority businesses.

Director DeVaughn will be a featured panelist in the session about Quality Connections for Government Contracts.

More information about the event is available at www.cbof56.com.



56TH ANNUAL CHICAGO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FAIR

APRIL 18-19, 2023

FEATURED WORKSHOP: QUALITY CONNECTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn about upcoming contracts and buying plans from local and state agencies.



Shondra Watson-Wilson
Director of Corporate Social Responsibility
& Supplier Diversity
Elkay Interior Systems



Raffi Sarrafian
Chief Procurement Officer
Cook County



Lisa Freelon
Department of Procurement Services
City of Chicago



Art Moore, MGP-CPP, CPPQ, CPPB
Chief Procurement Officer
Capital Development Board
State of Illinois



Raven A. DeVaughn
Director
Illinois Department of
Central Management Services

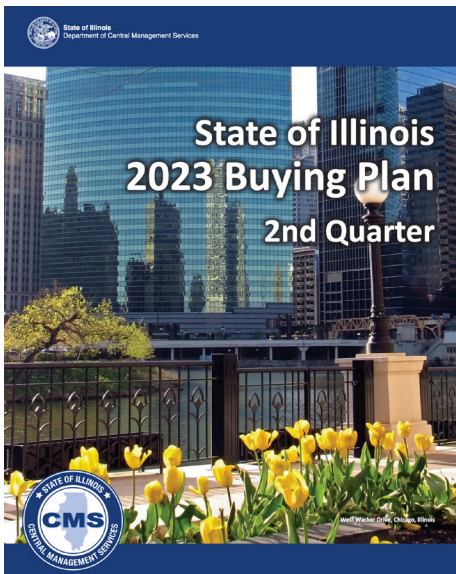
A graphic of a conference badge hanging from a lanyard. The badge text reads: "56TH ANNUAL CHICAGO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FAIR", "FULL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE", "APRIL 18-19, 2023", and "Chicago Marriott Downtown".

THE FIRST AND LARGEST, LOCAL PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE
connecting minority-owned business suppliers with corporate and government buyers

Workshops • Matchmaking • Awards • Trade Fair • Connections • Resource Guide

REGISTER ONLINE!
VISIT CBOF56.COM

#CBOF56 @CHICAGOMSDC



BoSS - 2nd Quarter Buying Plan

On behalf of nearly 20 State Agencies, Central Management Services (CMS) issued the latest edition of the State of Illinois' Quarterly Buying Plan. The Plan is designed to serve as a single-destination for useful information to the State's vendor community and to give vendors an idea of the upcoming purchasing needs for a range of agencies. This initiative is led by the Bureau of Strategic Sourcing (BoSS) team, who is committed to expanding the content of the document so that vendors interested in providing their goods and/or services to the State are informed, prepared, and ready to respond to the State's solicitations.

In addition to the quarterly forecast of upcoming opportunities, the most recent addition of the Plan features sections on doing business with the State, small and disadvantaged business programs, an overview of registration and pre-qualification requirements and how to access technical assistance.

For more information, visit:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/business/procurement/Pages/default.aspx>



Did you know? [CMS has a YouTube Channel!](#)

We asked employees throughout the State to give us ONE WORD to describe themselves.... check out what they said on the [CMS YouTube Channel](#).

CMS Team Happenings! New Hires & Promotions & Retirements

A warm welcome, congratulations and good wishes to our CMS Team!



New Hires - Welcome!

Richard Bean, Property Management
Marcial Benitez, Directors Office
Mahalia Davis, Benefits
Christine Neff, Directors Office
Eric Peters, Legal
Tabetha Pritchard, Benefits
Chelsea Sidener, Benefits
Arthur Sutton, Legal
Jazmine Watson, Directors Office

Promotions - Congratulations!

Patricia Barto, Personnel
Valerie Cowen, Personnel
Samantha Kelton, Personnel
Patrick Nolan, Directors Office

Retirement - Best Wishes!

Joseph Cyvas, Agency Services



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To learn more and keep up
with CMS, visit us online.

